(b) if so, whether any preliminary discussions have been held between ISRO and Boeing on this subject; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Indian Space Research Organisation and Antrix Corporation, which is the marketing arm of Department of Space, are holding discussions with Boeing Satellite Systems with a view to exploring the possiblity of combining and offering satellite products to the global market.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO THE STARRED AND UNSTARRED QUESTIONS SET FOR THE 1ST DECEMBER 2004*

Measures to counter violence in North Eastern Region

*1. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:
SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in just over two years, 35 major incidents of violence were reported from the North Eastern Region; and

(b) the measures taken to counter the militant groups operating in North Eastern States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir. A number of major incidents of violence were reported.

(b) The Government has taken various steps to curb such militant activities, which *inter alia* include deployment of Army and Central Para-Military Forces, coordinated action by the security forces for counter insurgency operations, modernization/upgradation of the State Police Forces, reimbursement of security related expenditure and declaration of militant organizations as 'unlawful associations'. The Government has also extended an invitation to all militant outfits to give up the path of violence and to come forward for talks within the framework of the Indian Constitution.

*The sitting of Rajya Sabha on the 1st December, 2004 was adjourned as a mark of respect to the memory of Shri V. V. Raghavan, a sitting member. Answers to questions put down with lists for that day were laid on the Table of the House on Thursday, the 2nd December, 2004.